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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

21 December 1981
Information as of 0945

DCI BRIEFING NOTE: POLAND

Bush
Weinberger
"Is the Church giving in?"

The Church has not caved into regime pressure or been coopted. According to US Embassy sources, police carrot and stick tactics--offers of special privileges regarding the curfew and access to gas in return for agreement not to read the tougher bishop's message at Mass yesterday--were rebuffed by pastors. The Church continues to play its long-term role of conciliator and mediator between the communist government and the populace. If anything, the Church's hand may have been strengthened by the current situations. The regime is taking a desperate gamble, but Jaruzelski realizes that a real solution to the crisis will have to include a settlement with Solidarity in some form or other. The Church is the only institution that can act as honest broker. [redacted]

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Haig

Our analysis that resistance to martial law has lessened at least temporarily and is mostly concentrated in two areas--the Baltic coast and Silesian mines-- [redacted]

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State/Int'l has reported that resistance is more widespread.

The Soviets seem satisfied so far by the effectiveness of the martial law administration. [redacted]

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[redacted] the media, frequently a barometer of regime concern, has reported growing "normalization" in Poland. Soviet officials, however, have expressed an awareness that the lid could blow at anytime, necessitating military intervention which they want to avoid. [redacted]

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